THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.
Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 51. SATURDAY, MARCH 6TH, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S. :—
Miss N. L. Smyth,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, Mar. 7th, at 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Miss Fraser Smith. Chair: Miss Manicom.
8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mr. E. Duval. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
Monday, Mar. 8th, 8 p.m.—Powerscroft Rd. (Hackney)—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Poplar, Cotton St.—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—"Peacock," Freemason's Road—Miss Manicom.
Tuesday, Mar. 9th, 2.30 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane, N.E.—Miss Chesley. Chair: Miss Manicom.
8 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Road—Mrs. Davies. Chair: Miss Beamish.
8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Miss Feek.
8 p.m.—53 St. Leonard St.—Mrs. Schlette.
3 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Mrs. Walker Chair: Miss Beamish.
Wednesday, Mar. 10th, 8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Ford Road—Mr. Carlton Smith. Chair: Miss Beamish.
Thursday, Mar. 11th, 8 p.m.—124 Barking Road—Miss Fedden.
8 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. Chair: Miss Manicom.
Friday, Mar. 12th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall.—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Canning Town, Beckton Rd.—Miss Fedden.
8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott St.—Rev. Wills.
8 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Club night.
Sunday, Mar. 14th, 3 p.m.—Hyde Park—Mrs. Davies. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—Bow Baths Hall—Rev. R. W. Sorensen on "Towards Democracy." Chair: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.

To reach Old Ford Road take an Old Ford 'bus (No. 8), which goes via the Marble Arch, Oxford St., the Bank and Liverpool St., or book to Old Ford Station on the North London Railway.

Poplar Suffrage Club, 20 Railway St. Open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 7 to 10 p.m.
Bow Suffrage Club, 400 Old Ford Rd., Fridays 7 to 10.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

We urgently need subscriptions to help us to pay the heavy milk bill for our centres in Bow, Bromley, Poplar and Canning Town ; also gifts of :

EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE, BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT, COD LIVER OIL AND MALT, GLAXO AND VIROL.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two nightgowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

Doctor attendances and baby weighing—400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway St., Poplar, Mondays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's St., Thursdays 2.30 p.m.; 14 Butcher's Rd., Canning Town,

Mothers may have the leaflets on baby-feeding by applying at any of the centres.

OUR COST-PRICE RESTAURANTS

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.
20 Railway Street, Poplar.
53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley.

Two-course meals 2d. (children 1d.)
Soup 1d. a pint with a piece of bread.

Will you send us a gift of provisions to reduce our bills, which are growing rapidly with the rising prices ?

OUR FACTORY.

Price lists for our toys, garments and shoes may be had on application to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Help us to produce skilled work at a living wage.

WOMAN'S PART IN WAR.
With acknowledgments to the "Daily Chronicle."

Dear Members,—You will remember that at the Annual Conference on January 4th the members of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes decided by a large majority that there should be a Monthly Subscription of 1d. Those who have not paid their subscriptions up-to-date should please do so as early as possible. I should be glad to have the names of volunteers who will call for the subscriptions of those members who are unable to come regularly to the meetings. I should be glad to hear from members who will help with putting DREADNOUGHTS into wrappers on Friday evenings.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST,
Hon. Sec.

TOWARDS CHEAPER FOOD.

On Sunday, February 28th, the E.L.F.S. joined forces with various Socialist and Trade Union bodies in a great procession and demonstration in Trafalgar Square to protest against rising prices and to demand that the Government forthwith reduce freight rates, import foreign wheat at the bare cost of transport, and fix maximum prices for food, coal and other necessaries. Miss Pankhurst and Mrs. Walker were amongst the speakers in the Square where large crowds assembled. Miss Pankhurst pointed out how foolish the men had been not to get 'Votes for Women' long ago, so that the agitation about food prices (as about all other grievances of the workers) might have been enormously strengthened by the support of a large mass of women voters. The feeling of the meeting was one of strong indignation against the Government for its cowardly inaction.

Church League for Women's Suffrage.

AT HOME

On Wednesday, March 10th, 7 to 9 p.m.

HOARE MEMORIAL HALL,
CHURCH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER.

Chair: Rev. F. M. GREEN, B.D.

Speaker: MISS MAUDE ROYDEN, on "Women and Church Councils."

REFRESHMENTS 7 TO 7.30 SIXPENCE.

MORE THREATS OF SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR SOLDIERS' WIVES!

On February 24th, Mr. Hoggle asked the following question :—

"What is the nature of the offences for which withdrawal of allowances and pensions is the possible punishment to the recipients ; and whether, in the event of the mother being convicted, the allowance or pension to children will also be withdrawn ?"

Mr. Baker replied, on behalf of the War Office :—

"Separation allowance or pension may be withdrawn on clear proof of serious misconduct, such as immorality definitely established, conviction on criminal charges, gross neglect of children or persistent drinking, especially where such drinking results in the neglect of children. The allowance or pension to the children is not withdrawn."

Sir Ryland Adkins asked :—

"How will such an offence have to be proved before the allowance is withdrawn ?"

Mr. Baker then said :—

"I understand the tribunal to which this is to be referred is under consideration, and an announcement will be made later."

These replies are highly unsatisfactory. In the first place, the ordinary courts in which other people are tried are the proper tribunals in which to try soldiers' wives and mothers also, for the offences which may be alleged against them.

In the second place, we would point out that the ordinary rule in regard to other State pensioners is that their pensions shall not be withdrawn except on conviction without the option of a fine. Mr. Baker did not indicate a similar proviso in the case of soldiers' and sailors' wives, and dependent relatives.

But, thirdly, and most important, we must insist that the separation allowances and pensions to soldiers' and sailors' wives, mothers, and other relatives are due to them as a right, as a part of the earnings of the soldiers and sailors, and in compensation for the sufferings and losses of those who are eligible for pensions and allowances. The pensions and allowances should be absolutely secured to the recipients as though they had themselves invested a sum of money in Consols.

A PUBLIC MEETING

20 Railway Street, Poplar,
ON SUNDAY, MARCH 7th, 8 p.m.

Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST,
Mr. E. DUVAL. Mrs. DRAKE.

Songs by Miss ADA POTTER.
Recitations by Madam ALICE GODFREY

MEETING to form a Branch of the League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives.

East Ham Town Hall,

(Minor Hall)

MONDAY, MARCH 8th, at 8 p.m.

Speakers :

Mrs. DESPARD,
Mrs. HOLT (A Soldier's wife),
GEORGE LANSBURY,
Sir JOHN BETHEL,
Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Chair : Mrs. THOMPSON (A Soldier's wife).

BOW BATHS HALL,

On Sunday, March 14th, at 8 p.m.

Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST,
Rev. R. W. SORENSEN and others.

Songs by Miss HELSBY and Mr. ERIC CHAPPELOW.

SOLDIERS' DEPENDENTS.

A new Army Order has come into operation improving the position of soldiers' dependents. Of its provisions one of the most important is that **marriage after enlistment will no longer bar a wife's claim to separation allowance.** Allowances will be paid as from February 1st, or from date of marriage if the claimant was married since February 1st.

Motherless children are to receive 5s. a week, and the allotment on the part of the father is abolished. Boys as well as girls are now reckoned as "dependents" up to the age of 16. A young person over 16 who is receiving a nominal wage only as an apprentice, or who is attending a technical school or university, will be eligible for allowance up to the age of 21. Permanently adopted, illegitimate and step children will now be treated as "dependents." Wives and children but *not* other dependents of soldiers serving in India, can claim separation allowance from February 1st.

The allowances for children are now raised to 5s. for the first, 3s. 6d. for the second, and 2s. for every subsequent child. A wife with four children is therefore entitled to 25s. a week.

The definition of dependent has also been extended. When a soldier has been supporting several people, as for instance, his mother and brothers and sisters, the separation allowance will be paid as if to a wife and children, provided that the soldier usually contributed that amount over and above the cost of his own maintenance.

Separation allowance is also payable to a wife who was separated from her husband before his enlistment.

WOMEN! JOIN THE
East London Federation of the Suffragettes —
WE NEED YOU!

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose 1½d. to cover membership and postage.

I enclose 4s. 4d. for a year's WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Name.....

Address.....

TO DISCUSS THE RELIGIOUS ASPECT OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN RELATION TO WAR AND PEACE.

THREE GREAT MEETINGS FOR MEN AND WOMEN will be held at the CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER, On Monday, March 22nd, at 11 a.m. and 2.30 and 6 p.m.

CHAIRMAN: THE REV. W. TEMPLE. Speakers:—
H. W. Nevinson, Esq. Dr. Henry T. Hodgkin.
The Rev. Richard Roberts. Miss Zoe Fairfield.
Miss Eglantine Jebb. The Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of Lincoln.
Miss Catherine E. Marshall. The Rev. E. S. Woods.
The Rev. Dr. Orchard. Miss Maude Royden.
The Rev. A. H. Gray. The Rev. Dr. Dearmer.
Mrs. Barbara McKenzie. Mrs. Bruce Glasier.

Prices of Admission—	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d
For the 3 Meetings	15	0	12	6	6	0	2	6
For 1 Meeting	7	6	5	0	2	6	1	0

Programmes and tickets may be had from Miss Lucy Gardner, "The Collegium," 92 St. George's Square, London, S.W.

Stamped, addressed envelopes should be sent when applying for tickets.

N.B.—Please send for Programmes for distribution, and speak of this Conference to your friends.

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No. 51.—Saturday, March 6th, 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

AMERICAN WOMEN AND WORLD POLICY.

Many years ago in five far western states of America, the women were enfranchised on equal terms with the men, receiving full national and State suffrage at the age of 21. At the time, England, even America, heeded little this introduction of the suffrage principle, for the five suffrage states were in the far-off sparsely populated West.

In America, progressive innovations usually come from the West. The slower and more conservative Eastern States, whose actions have been clogged by old corruptions and ancient prejudices have called themselves cultured and have affected to scorn the Western States as barbarous and primitive and peopled by ignorant boors and rash faddists. The term "Woolly West" is supposed to sum up these uncouth characteristics. But though at first the East gibes and sneers at Western reforms, even though it may do so tardily, in time, it adopts them all.

Wyoming, the first Suffrage State, enfranchised its women in 1869, Colorado in 1893, and Idaho and Utah, in 1896.

Then the Suffrage impetus seemed to decline. Perhaps the old pioneers had spent their strength, and no other women fitted to be leaders were ready to step into the breach. In England, too, there was a time of despondency, if not of reaction, in the Suffrage movement.

The English movement recovered first; 1904, 1905 and 1906 saw the beginnings of a great and growing revival, which seemed to give the cue to the American awakening.

When I went to America in January, 1911, the English Suffrage movement was already inspired with passionate enthusiasm and determination, and had widespread adherence in every rank of society. Comparatively, American public opinion seemed to me to be heedless of the question, and American Suffragists inclined to be coldly patient.

But, if Votes for Women was not yet the burning question that it had become here, there was a willingness to consider it amongst the average American official personage that augured well; and, to my surprise, I found that even State Legislatures and Universities did not consider it beneath them to invite a wandering English Suffragette to address them in their august assembly halls.

Sometimes I thought, as I went from State to State, that Suffrage societies took themselves and their mission less seriously than did the outer world. Often there seemed to be a tendency, alike amongst working Suffragists and sympathetic or unconverted onlookers, to regard the Suffrage question as primarily and most urgently a question for British women. "We do not need it as *you* do"; "we have not worked for it as *your* women have," was often said.

It was thought, too, that British women would get the Vote almost at once, and to numbers of American Suffragists, the thought of winning in America, although in many States the question was actually hanging in the balance, and in the State of Washington success had but just been achieved, seemed more remote than an English victory. They were ever saying: "*you* will get it and that will help *us* to get it. We look to you English women!"

In January, 1912, I was again in America. The situation had changed greatly, and one could see the new spirit of determination amongst women rapidly developing. Women of all classes and occupations had begun to feel and understand the need for the vote, its meaning and its use. The old detached interest in the British women's fight and eager cordial admiration for the fighters were still there, but were beginning to become secondary to the strong determination of American womanhood to win and use the franchise on their own account.

It was now seen that the English victory, that had seemed so imminent a year ago, was harder to compass than had been thought, and meanwhile California, a State of vastly greater influence than any previous suffrage State, had made its women voters in the autumn of 1911, whilst the question was about to be submitted to the voters of a number of other States.

In 1912, the States of Arizona, Kansas, and Oregon gave votes to women. Alaska followed in 1913. Nevada, and Montana in 1914, whilst the women of the great State of Michigan narrowly missed enfranchisement.

Historians will, undoubtedly, decide that American women won political freedom more easily than either the men or the women have hitherto done in any of the countries of the old world. But just as our struggle, which has been harder, may be more prolonged than theirs, so, too, in the American States, where the Suffrage campaign has been most vigorous and continuous, it has seemed, until recently, that the victory would be the longest in coming. If England of late years has been the Suffrage battlefield for the world so, too, New York, Boston, Chicago, and Philadelphia have been the Suffrage battlefields and debating centres for the United States.

Until recently it had seemed that the States of which these great cities are the centres, would be the last to give citizenship to their women. But last year Illinois, all unexpectedly, as it appeared, adopted Votes for Women, and now New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania are on the eve of following suit.

The Suffrage victory in the United States is a thing practically accomplished; even the slow Southern States, where, it is still widely said by outsiders that the woman's movement is as yet unborn, are passing Votes for Women Bills.

The Vote is daily bringing to the American citizen more direct power in the government. The Vote is there granted on an Adult Suffrage basis, to the women, in the States, where women vote, as to the men. American voters elect the judges and all public officials, as well as the President and members of the legislative bodies. In many of the States the *Initiative Referendum* and *Recall* have been introduced, which give voters the power to *initiate* legislation, by petitioning that it shall be submitted to a *Referendum* vote of the electors, so that it may be passed without reference to the legislative chambers, and also give electors the power to *Recall* by a majority vote any unpopular or corrupt official.

All this is of immense importance during the present international crisis for the women voters are rapidly obtaining a powerful influence in the *International*, as well as the *National* policy of their country. The American woman's movement is at present leading American thought on international questions, and in the near future the international policy of America will be of vital moment to us all. E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

On March 2nd, an amendment to the Defence of the Realm (Amendment) Bill was adopted to the effect that "the expression British Subject" shall include "a woman who has married a foreigner, but who before marriage was a British Subject."

AN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF WOMEN.

The Women of Holland have undertaken to organise an International Congress of Women to discuss the International problems arising out of the War, including: Protest against War; Arbitration and Conciliation; Women's claim to a voice in the Peace Settlement; subjection of foreign policies to Democratic Control in which there shall be equal representation of men and women; and the promotion of good feeling between the Nations. The Conference is to cost £1,000, and the Dutch and German women have each undertaken to bear a third share of the cost.

At a meeting of delegates from women's organisations, including the E.L.F.S., called by Miss MacMillan, Miss Courtney, Miss Leaf, Miss Marshall and Miss Wilson, at Caxton Hall, it was enthusiastically agreed to join the Congress.

In Memoriam.

Clara Evelyn Mordan who has died after a long illness, was one of the early Suffrage pioneers, in the days when Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bright, Lydia Becker, Mrs. Fawcett, Dr. Pankhurst and John Stuart Mill were workers in the movement.

Miss Mordan was one of the first of the older workers to welcome the new Suffragette movement. She gave the first subscription received by the W.S.P.U. in London at the first Caxton Hall meeting, and year by year she gave a substantial part of her slender income to further the cause. To Miss Mordan's comrade and ours, Miss Grey Allen, we tender our sincerest sympathy.

The *Daily Chronicle* reports that Baron Von Bissing in an interview in the *Tageblatt*, says: "The Belgians are merely children and one must know how to treat them." This is the attitude habitually adopted by persons in power to those who have no political means of self-protection.

Mr. Birrell, Chief Secretary for Ireland, recently stated in the House of Commons that the average salary of women assistants in Ireland is £68 14s., and that the average salary of junior assistant mistresses is £24 a year, with an additional "grant" of £4 a year after two years of efficient service, making the wages £28 a year. These are miserably sweated rates of pay.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

REMEMBER THE SOLDIERS' MOTHER!

Here are extracts from some of the many letters we receive from soldiers' mothers.

"My son says if I am getting 5s. 10d. a week it is all his money. And this dreadful War is being fought for good principles!" Is it a good principle to let a boy—he *is* only a boy (19)—pay 10d. a day out of 1s. 2½d. to me, and for the Government to pay nothing? Cannot the Government afford to pay 5d. if my son pays 5d. Now I know I am taking all my son's money it hurts me, and although I cannot make two ends meet with his 5s. 10d., I will save him some. When the War is over and the men come home, others will have a good sum to draw and my son will have nothing."

o o o

In the House of Commons on February 24th, Mr. Baker, on behalf of the War Office, refused to amend the Army Order which says that, in order to obtain separation allowance and pension a dependent must prove actual dependence over a reasonable period, in order that a woman whose husband dies during the War may receive maintenance from her son.

What is to become of the middle-aged woman, who has spent her life keeping house for husband and sons, if the husband dies whilst the sons are at the War?

In the House of Commons on February 25th, Mr. Keir Hardie asked that the hardships and injustices from which soldiers' mothers and other dependents, other than wives are suffering by the varying estimates of the sums that are supposed to be due, shall be put an end to, together with much work for pension officers, "by the substitution of a universal value for pre-enlisting dependence."

Mr. Baker on behalf of the War Office refused to consider this, but the present intolerable treatment of the soldiers' mother cannot be suffered to continue permanently. We must continue to protest until something is done.

The War Office refuses to pay the 3s. 6d. extra rent allowance for London to soldiers' wives who have moved into London since mobilization. A woman "married on the strength" lived prior to the War in barracks in the Curragh. In due course her husband went to the front and later the barracks was cleared to make way for Kitchener's Army. Turned out of the barracks, which had been her home, this woman came to London, where her family live.

After her removal to London the separation allowance came regularly for some time, including the extra for London allowance of 3s. 6d. Then the 3s. 6d. was docked two weeks without comment and afterwards she received a letter stating that she had been overpaid in respect of London allowance £2 17s. 10d., and that this sum would be deducted from her allowance at the rate of 5s. 10d. the first week and 4s. for 13 weeks, so that it would be fourteen weeks before she would have again the 26s. 8d. to which she would have been entitled if she had lived in the country.

We consider that this woman has been most hardly dealt with. It is much harder for this woman to repay the money which the authorities paid to her, either by their own mistake or through their own inability to come to a decision as to how to treat her, than it would have been to do without the extra 3s. 6d. all along. Moreover the authorities themselves removed her from the Curragh barracks where she lived, it is their act and not hers that has made it necessary for her to find a home elsewhere.

But surely any soldiers' wife who lives in London and has to pay the higher rents charged there should have the extra allowance designed to meet it.

The Edinburgh Town Council is employing women to work on the trams. They have promised to pay them as much as the men, but the Trade Unionists are afraid the wages may be reduced afterwards.

AMERICAN PROGRESS.
VOTES FOR WOMEN WINS.

In New York, the Empire State of U.S.A., a Votes for Women Bill has just been passed unanimously by both Houses of the Legislature without a dissenting voice. The measure passed through the Assembly on February 3rd, and the Senate on February 4th.

There were great rejoicings amongst the women, and by permission of Lieut. Gov. Schoeneck a meeting was held in the Senate Chamber by the Woman's Political Union.

The question according to precedent must be submitted to the present male electorate next November, and the women opened the necessary campaign of propoganda by what they called a Halleluja Day on February 10th.

The Massachusetts Senate has passed a Votes for Women Bill by 33 votes to 3. A favourable vote of the Lower House is confidently expected, in which case the question will be submitted to the voters in November.

In Pennsylvania, which ranks with New York, Massachusetts and Illinois, as one of the four wealthiest States of America, in which the conditions, with their great cities, New York, Chicago, Boston and Philadelphia, approximate most closely to our own, the question of Votes for Women is also before the legislature. It was carried in the Lower House by 130 votes to 71, on February 4th.

In Illinois, where women have recently won the Vote, Senator Shaw of Decatur introduced a Bill to repeal Women's Suffrage. He was repudiated even by the liquor interests he thought to serve, as his Party machine, realising the extreme unpopularity of his proposal, forced him to resign from the chairmanship of the Legislative Committee on Labour.

The Southern States have always been considered the reactionary States, especially in regard to the women's movement, but the Legislature of Tennessee has just passed a Votes for Women Bill. This Bill, according to the Constitution of Tennessee, will have to be ratified by another legislature, and also by a referendum vote of the men of the State before it can become law, but having got thus far, Votes for Women is on the high road to success in Tennessee.

In the State of West Virginia Votes for Women has been carried by 80 votes to 6 in the Lower House, and 20 to 1 in the Upper House. The question, according to the usual custom of the State, will be submitted to the voters for ratification at the next election, which takes place in 1916.

The Legislature of North Carolina has just legalised the appointment of women as "Notaries Public."

In the State of Arkansas, Votes for Women has been passed by both Legislative Chambers, the Senate voting 23 for and 12 against, and the Lower House 51 for and 18 against. According to the law of Arkansas only three amendments to the constitution may be submitted to the voters at one time, and as three other amendments had already been adopted, it is probable that votes for Arkansas women will probably be postponed for a time.

Nevada Senators, for whom women vote, have passed an eight hour law for women, to apply where two or more persons are employed.

Miss Kathryn Clarke has been elected State Senator in Oregon. She is the third Woman Senator in the United States. Miss Marion B. Towne is a member of the Oregon Legislature. Miss Effie Loder is Sergeant-at-Arms in the Kansas State Legislature.

SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN.

The *Woman's Outlook* states that Suffragists in South Africa are pressing for the discussion of Votes for Women this session, while party questions are in abeyance owing to the War. They are encouraged by the fact that General Botha is himself a Suffragist.

A LETTER from ADELHEID POPP.

On the eve of the War we published an account of the life of Adelheid Popp, a working woman of Vienna, who struggled through great privations, educated herself and for many years has been one of the foremost leaders amongst Austrian women.

We reprint with acknowledgments to the *Labour Leader* in which it has appeared, an extract from a letter from Adelheid Popp to working women in this country.

Dear Comrades,

In our hearts, and I think I have the right to speak in the name of all Socialist working women in Austria, the longing is alive to see the end of this terrible war.

The blood of our relatives, friends, and comrades is being shed on the battlefields, and we do not call only the workers of Austria and Germany our own. The workers of Britain, Belgium, France, Russia, and Servia are just as dear to us, and we know they have, just as our slaughtered workers have, mothers, wives, and children who weep for them. Nothing can separate us from the working class of other nations but the frontiers. We are conscious, even if we speak in different tongues, that we must take joint action, because the working class of all countries have to suffer from the same fate. It appears to us that one of the most terrible consequences of the war is the fact that the communications between the working men and women of all countries have been cut off. But, nevertheless, we cannot despair! We are conscious that the fraternisation of the peoples is a historical need and that it is ever more necessitated by the miseries of daily life.

WORK AND WAGES.

February 25th, the Prime Minister said that the Government were considering an increase in pay to the workmen employed by the Government, in view of the higher cost of living. Advances already have been given to men employed in the Royal Dockyards. But when Sir Kinloch-Cooke asked that 1s. a week extra should be given to the women employed in the Ropery, His Majesty's Dockyard, Devonport, Dr. Macnamara refused to give any undertaking.

It transpired that after serving a year as probationer at 13s. a week, these women are promoted to the third class in which they are paid 15s. and in which they usually remain from 10 to 12 years, as advancement to the first and second class only takes place when there is a vacancy and vacancies are very few. Women in the second class are paid 17s., and those in the first, 20s. Dr. Macnamara said that the women are paid on a system of prices under which they earn, at present, from 15 to 20 per cent. more than the time rates In any case an addition of 20 per cent. to 15s. only makes 18s. and most of the women have no hope of earning more.

But Sir Kinloch-Cooke protested that the women of the third class cannot earn more than 15s., even taking into account this scheme of prices.

Sir Kinloch-Cooke pointed out that most of the women are widows of sailors who have died in the service, and thus in a large number of cases they have children to maintain out of their scanty wages.

On February 25th, Mr. George Greenwood stated in the House of Commons that in Mitcham only 8d. a dozen was being paid for the making of khaki coats and 3s. and 4s. for haversacks.

Women Army Bootmakers of Northampton are striking for more pay. They demand increases of 1s. to 2s. a week.

At Edinburgh 10,000 women are estimated by the *Daily Chronicle* to have lost their work through the War.

We learn that many women teachers have been engaged in Edinburgh to replace men who have enlisted, but always at a much lower wage.

CHILD LABOUR ON THE FARMS.

In the House of Commons on February 25th, Mr. Keir Hardie raised the question of the employment of children of school age, especially in the agricultural districts. He said: "There are various limitations in the Acts of Parliament which regulate our educational system, and these limitations can be embodied in by-laws which have the same force as the Acts of Parliament. If the local authority fails to enforce the by-laws, the Board of Education may hold an inquiry and enforce the findings of that inquiry by means of a mandamus.

"There has always been a certain strife between those who desire the children to be allowed to remain at school until they are 14 and those who, especially in the agricultural industry, want the cheap labour of the children for their farms. It now looks as though the latter were becoming more powerful, and were obtaining the approval of the Government."

Mr. Keir Hardie then quoted cases, furnished by Miss Susan Lawrence to the Board of Education, showing that in Dorsetshire, Buckinghamshire, Devonshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Sussex, Wiltshire, Westmoreland, and Yorkshire, boys of school age have been exempted from attendance, and boys of eleven and twelve in a number of cases have been employed on farms, also that the practice is spreading in industrial districts, the Staffordshire Education committee, amongst others having expressed their willingness to exempt boys of 13 from school, in spite of protests from trade unions that adult labour is available, and that the industrial work offered them is too heavy for these young children.

Mr. Keir Hardie said: "I would ask the House to observe that the question really is that, in the admitted shortage of labour due to the War, many of those who are agitating are doing so in the hope that the relaxation of the education laws will be perpetual, and that their cheap labour will be continued. I want to refer to what we consider are the reforms which ought to be enforced, not merely to remedy the undoubted shortage of labourers in some of the agricultural districts, but to permanently improve the conditions of work of the agricultural labourers. The first requirement is higher wages. It is a most remarkable fact that the further north you go the more the tendency to employ child labour disappears. The further south you come, the stronger is the demand for child labour. When in Scotland and the North of England the wages of agricultural labourers are about double what they are in the southern districts of England, you see at once why the farm hand should be in a position which will enable him to have the same respect for his child as any capable workman. The President of the Board of Education said—I quote him in support of my view:—

"There is one curious fact in connection with this subject, and it is this, that where wages are lowest, there has been the greatest tendency to take children from school: where the conditions have been best, where the wages are highest, there is no demand on the part of the farmers to try and secure the cheap labour or the free labour of the boys on their farms."

This was said on the 7th February by the Right Hon. gentleman in reply to a deputation. Then we have the testimony, and very remarkable it is, of the Hon. Gentleman opposite, the member for Oxford University (Mr. Prothero) who, in the House of Commons, on 17th February referred to this question.

"If you enquire in various quarters of the country, you will find that even ordinary wages of agriculturul labourers have been raised by something like 2s. a week. I quite agree that 3s. would probably re-instate the men in the position in which they were before the War, and if hon. Members will go for that, there we must part company, because I do not think that that can fairly be expected from the employer."

It does not seem to me to be logical, or consistent, to say that farmers can be expected to pay an extra 2s. and that they cannot afford to pay 3s. That difficulty seems to be a small one. We put forward as our first claim that a living wage should be fixed, by law if need be, or, at any rate, by Wages Boards; and, secondly that suitable cottages should be provided for the agricultural labourer. We have Housing Acts and all sorts of Acts and all sorts of departments for this purpose now, and it cannot be expected that agricultural labourers are going to be content to live the kind of life in the future which they have done in the past. There is one question upon which I do not know whether my colleagues would be unanimous, but which I feel might be used to great account in solving this problem for the War period. I refer to the question of the unemployment of women. I can remember in Scotland my own mother, who was a farm servant, many times had to work after she was married, with her children growing up. I have seen her employed in the fields at kinds of work which I would not like to see any other woman employed at now; but there is much work about a farm, which is perfectly respectable, clean, and which calls for a certain amount of intelligence—such as milking, the handling of milk, the making of butter, and many other occupations which a woman can do with advantage to herself and others. But like many other cases, the average woman brought up in the town, has lost all instinct for, and all contact with the life of the farm.

Then, if we are to permanently solve this problem, there must be a fresh land policy. This country cannot afford to allow its land to be sacrificed and its labourers to be degraded in order to perpetuate an old-time system of private ownership, and before the agricultural problem can be solved, some form of common local ownership and co-operation amongst the producers will require to be adopted. . . . . .

The whole matter may require investigation, but the one thing we protest against is that when a bit of a crisis appears to be on us, the burden of it should fall so heavily upon the child. That surely can be avoided in a House with so much power as this House possesses, and I trust that the Government, instead of pursuing its policy of weeping with both eyes, will let the Education Authorities all over England know that the Education Act must be enforced in the interests of the children."

Sir James Yoxall protested that because the farmer preferred the cheap and conveniently placed labour of the child, he would not consider employing either the Belgian adult or the Bradford and Bristol adult. It would be to the interest of the teachers, whose ranks were depleted by 25 per cent., who had gone to the War, that 25 per cent. of the children should be removed from school, to work upon the land. It would mean less labour and less strain for the reduced staff of teachers; yet both men and women were anxious for the children to remain at school and lamented the loss of education in the future life of those children who were withdrawn.

Mr. Chaplin and Sir Frederick Banbury, though demanding that boys of school age should be employed, also declared themselves in favour of employing women. Sir Frederick Banbury declared that he is employing *a* woman on his farm, but when asked by Sir Henry Verney whether he would pay a woman "something like a pound a week or what is necessary," he evaded the point and said "she does not work continuously."

Mr. Prothero, one of the apologists for child labour, argued that farmers cannot get workers through labour exchanges, and that the labour exchanges could give no information as to the occupations and capabilities of the Belgian refugees. But Mr. Whitehouse declared that for some months past the labour exchanges have been regularly printing a list of refugees needing work and of what they are competent to do.

Sir Henry Verney on behalf of the

(*Continued on page 208, col. 3.*)

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW.

A splendid demonstration was held in Trafalgar Square on Sunday against the rise in food prices. A procession marched from the East End. The E.L.F.S. Bow contingent started from the *Salmon and Ball*, and a number of members marched under our own banner. Lady Emily Lutyens gave a very interesting lecture in the Bow Baths on Sunday evening, and the concert arranged by Miss Murray Clark was also much enjoyed by those present.

Successful meeting held Hyde Park on Sunday afternoon. Speakers Mrs. Bouvier and Miss Manicom.

Last Friday was the first night of the Bow Suffrage Club. The next meeting will be on Friday, this week. All members and their friends are invited. It is hoped that all will do what they can to make this Club a real success.

Members please note that, in the future, our afternoon meetings will be held on Tuesday, at 3 p.m., instead of Monday. The speaker next Tuesday will be Mrs. Walker.

Now the weather is getting warmer it is hoped that all who can spare an hour or so will volunteer to help with the stall on Friday evening, or any time on Saturday.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Feb. 27, 139

BROMLEY.

Joint Hon. Secretaries:
Mrs. McCheyne & Mrs. Mantle,
53 St. Leonard Street.

Crowded meeting Tuesday evening. To our regret the Speaker did not turn up, but Mrs. Wood kindly filled in the breach and interested us all. *Dreadnoughts* sold well. Three new members made.

POPLAR.

The Women's Hall, 20 Railway St.
Organiser: Mrs. Drake.

Subscriptions are now payable for March. Amount paid in for Feb. by our members 14s. 2d., which is an improvement on last month. The best thing about these subscriptions is the spirit the members show when paying. They seem to feel that the movement is more their own, and that is what we desire most of all.

Mrs. Walker & Mrs. Scurr were the speakers Wednesday evening and Friday afternoon, when new members were made; Mr. Franklin spoke at Piggott St. in the evening, and Mr. Everett took the chair for him. Our best thanks are due to them for taking this meeting, which they did, by themselves. Members are particularly requested to bring their friends to the meetings on Sunday evening.

The Social that was held here on Saturday last was a complete success, and we give our hearty thanks to everyone who helped to make it so. The Bow members presented Poplar Choir with a 5s. subscription to show appreciation of their efforts to get a piano. Mrs. Neuss was presented with an umbrella, as she has been very good letting the choir have the use of her room and piano for choir practice. The Social realised £1 10s. 10d.

A good start was made from the Dock Gates on Sunday by this branch of the E.L.F.S. to Trafalgar Square, and we give thanks to our men supporters for their assistance.

Dreadnoughts sold, week ending Feb. 27—248.

Distributors—Mrs. Giles, Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Schlette, Mrs. Burgess, Mrs. Churcher, Mrs. Allen. Miss M. Brown sold 50.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Centre for Tidal Basin and Custom House—
55 Fife Road, Tidal Basin.
Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Daisy Parsons,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

Tuesday's sale was a great success, 19s. 2½d. being taken. We were fortunate, too, in having crockery, etc., brought in by members to help furnish the kitchen at the shop. We are also indebted to Miss Smyth's sister for a nice fireguard, and we have also received some baby linen from Miss Grace Mann, and toys from Nurse Smith. Nine of our members went in the procession to the Square on Sunday, and some collected for Milk Fund, and some sold papers. Mrs. Sands, Mrs. Roper, and Mrs. Browne thanked for distributing milk when secretary was not there. Miss Beamish spoke at Thursday's meeting as Mr. Kennedy was ill. Two new members are welcomed. Don't forget the Canning Town Social the last Saturday in March, in the Public Hall. Tickets 3d. each, and can be had now.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON E.L.F.S.

A branch of the E.L.F.S. is now being formed in South-East London, and will be called "The South-East London Branch of the E.L.F.S." Members and helpers are urgently needed to make this a success. Will any wishing to become members or willing to help in any way, please send in their names to Miss Balchin, 39 Radnor Street, Peckham. Meetings in connection with this are held in the Kempshead Road Hall, Kempshead Road, Albany Road, Old Kent Road, weekly, on Wednesday evenings, at 8.30. Minimum members subscription 1s. per year, and could be paid monthly.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

R. S. P. U.

Hon. Sec.—J. W. Bonarius, 89 Wyke Road.

The Joint committee of the R.S.P.U. and E.L.F.S. have again agreed to postpone the "Milk Fund" Social in favour of the Bow Branch of the Daily Herald League, as the Leagues expenses for the Social at Bow Baths are great and all supporters will be needed to make it a success. The Joint Committee hope that in future it will be arranged that fixtures shall not clash as they cannot disappoint their supporters again.

Please note that the posponed "Milk Fund" Social will take place on Saturday, Mar. 11, and that all takings of tickets and refreshments will go to the E.L.F.S. Milk Fund only. Tickets 3d. each, may be had from 400 Old Ford Road, Bow; 321 Roman Road, Bow; and J. W. Bonarius, 98 Wyke Road, Bow.

The R.S.P.U. meets every Tuesday night at 400 Old Ford Road, where non-members will be welcomed.

NORTH LONDON M.P.U.

Hon. Sec.: Mr. H. G. Everett.
c/o Mr. Innes, 31 Balmes Road, Southgate Road.

A successful lobbying campaign was held at the House of Commons last week. Several Members interviewed. We impressed upon them urgent necessity of bringing every pressure to bear on the Government to pass into law this session a measure enfranchising women.

Good meeting was held Friday last at which Mr. Franklin spoke.

Our big Public Meeting, at which Miss Sylvia Pankhurst will speak, will be held in Highbury Hall, Friday, March 26th. Tickets 6d. and 3d. ready soon.

WANTED FOR HACKNEY.

Our Hackney office, 179 Dalston Lane, still needs some more furnishings, including chairs, floor covering, curtains, and a fender. Mrs. Collins and her sister have given a kettle, six cups and saucers and a jug, and Miss Hudson has given various things. At the Tuesday meeting a subscription was started towards the chairs which amounted to 5s. 6d.

WANTED for SOUTH WEST HAM

At our new centre, 55 Fife Road, Custom House, we want still more furniture, including a hearthrug, curtains, chairs, tables.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

General Fund.—Miss Metcalfe 10.0.0, Anon 3.0.0, Mrs Harverson 2.0.0, Miss I. Bensusan 2.2.0, collection Canning Town Hall 1.3.6½, W R Snow & Co. 1.1.0, Miss R Dyce Sharp 10.0, Anon (per Miss R Dyce Sharp) 10.0, Miss K Griffith 5.0, Tom Norris, Esq. (monthly) 5.0, Miss H Garratt 5.0, Miss M Burgess (monthly) 5.0, Mrs Morley Davis (monthly) 5.0, Mrs & Miss Ashby monthly) 4.0, Mrs Giles (½d. collection) 1.0, Collection (Mrs Parsons) 1.0½.

For Milk and General Distress:—Miss M. Brailsford 5.0.0, Collection Chorley Wood Meeting 3.1.1½, Miss J A Hinton 3.0.0, Anon 3.0.0, J Wilson, Esq. 2.0.0, per Miss M Renthe 1.13.6, Poplar Social 1.10.10, R R Tatlock, Esq. 1.1.0, Mrs Monck Mason 1.0.0, Miss C E Shields 1.0.0, Lady Battersea 1.0.0, Mrs J K Watt 1.0.0, Sir William Tilden 1.0.0, Wimbledon W.S.P.U. 1.0.0, Miss Lilley 10.6, Mrs Durrant (monthly) 10.0, Miss H Raisin (monthly) 10.0, Anon 10.0, A Friend (per Mrs Thompson) 10.0, Anon 10.0, Miss C I Bagster 10.0, Miss I V Yeoman (weekly) 10.0, Anon — Hornsey (weekly) 10.0, Miss May Robinson 10.0, Miss Macfarlane 10.0, Collection Bow Baths 8.4, per Miss F J Pell 8.0, R Woodifield, Esq. 6.0, Mrs Hawkins 6.0, Miss H J Pole 5.0, A Portsmouth Suffragist 5.0, Mrs Hulme 5.0, Miss C M Pugh 5.0, H Burrows, Esq. 5.0, Mrs Richmond (weekly) 5.0, Miss E Morgan 5.0, Miss M Balchin 4.6, Miss M Renthe 4.0, Miss Ella Stevenson 3.7, Miss Haslam 3.3½, Mrs Willis 2.6, Miss Burgess 2.2, Miss I Jones (weekly) 2.0, Mrs Howard 2.0, Mrs Foster (monthly) 2.0, Miss F G Sainsbury 2.0, Mrs Powles (weekly) 1.0, Miss Roles 1.0, A N Nicholls 1.0.

Collections.—Mrs Bird (Trafalgar Sq.) 19.3¾, Miss Marks 12.0½, Mrs Bird (outside Greens') 9.10, Miss Watts 7.5½, Miss K Ennis 7.3, Miss Orr 7.2, Miss Halle (Int. Suffrage Shop) 5.6, Mrs Crabb 5.6, Miss Anderson 5.5½, Miss Burgess 4.8½, Mrs Brewster 4.1½, Miss Lagsding 3.7½, Miss Ruby Crabb 3.4, Miss Gilling 3.3½, Miss Watts (Trafalgar Sq.) 2.0, Miss Bellamy 1.6, Mrs Tollon 7d., Canning Town 17.0.

Clothes, etc.—Miss Freeman, The Misses Hazel, Miss Katherine Pearce, Miss H N Mack, Miss E Spark, Miss F Agutter, Miss Gray, Mrs Wedgwood, Mrs Trevethick, Mrs L Henderson, Mrs Gibbes, Miss M Burgess.

Flour.—Mr Wickins.

Remember that at present necessitous children who are too delicate to attend school, and are urgently needing extra nourishment, lose even the chance of school dinners. The E.L.F.S. "Cost-Price" Restaurants supply meals to some of these children, but this is a matter of national concern. Can we not induce our National and Local Governments to put their heads together and find some way of befriending these children?

But in the meantime send a subscription, which will enable us to help provide more milk and meals for East London children.

A ring, gold band with diamond, has been given to be sold for the milk fund, price £3. On approval from Miss Gliksten, 5 Avenue Mansions, Finchley Road, N.W.

A 'cello has been given to be sold for the E.L.F.S. funds, value £20. Apply 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

(Continued from page 207.)

Board of Agriculture, and Mr. Pease President of the Board of Agriculture deprecated child labour, but they spoke as though taking part as unofficial persons in a purely academic debate, and gave no assurance that anything whatsoever would be done to keep the children at school or any alternative to their labour provided.

Mr. Pease said that 1,300 children of school age are employed on farms as a result of the War, and that for 13,000 school children, no accommodation can be found on account of schools being commandeered for the troops.

POPLAR MAYOR'S COMMITTEE MEETS AT LAST!

The Poplar Local Representative Committee for the administration of the Prince of Wales's Fund met on Thursday, March 4th.

Week after week, and month after month passed without a meeting; Miss Susan Lawrence and Mr. St. John Hutchinson, L.C.C., members for the Borough, and Mr. George Lansbury, chairman of the Bow West Ward sub-committee, addressed a circular letter to the members of the main committee, asking them to sign a declaration if they thought it advisable for the main committee to be again called together.

This circular has produced the desired effect, as the Mayor has at length called a meeting of the Committee for Thursday, March 4th.

The SELLING of CANADA'S GIFT

At a meeting on March 2nd, of the Bow North Ward sub-committee of the Poplar Local Representation Committee for the administration of the Prince of Wales's fund, the following resolution was unanimously carried: "That all food given for the poor shall immediately be distributed in the form of tickets among the Ward Committees to be dealt with by them and not sold." Great indignation was expressed by the members of the sub-committee on learning that potatoes sent by Canada for the poor, had been sold in Poplar, as all the members of the sub-committee had under their care many distressed persons to whom the potatoes would have been a great boon.

COAL PROFITS.

A coal merchant, who is not a member of the "coal ring," recently made several illuminating remarks to a *Star* reporter:—

"All this talk about shortage of waggons and increased colliery prices is bogey. It is simply part of a plan to get rich at the expense of the consumer." He said that pit-head coal was being sold for less than contract prices, and estimated that 1s. to 2s. above the normal winter prices would amply cover "emergency expenses." The rise per cwt. in Poplar has been equivalent to a rise of *at least* 10s. per ton over normal winter prices, which, even allowing the full 2s. for "emergency expenses," is a clear profit to the merchant of 8s. a ton. In this connection it is interesting to note that the *Daily Chronicle* remarks that some members of the Special Committee, appointed by the Government to enquire into the retail price of coal, "heard with surprise the extent of the business done in small quantities of coal, such as 7 lbs. or 10 lbs., and even pennyworths. . . . . On these small quantities, it was suggested, the rise in price was greatest and most severely felt." But what is the Government doing to appoint as members of this Committee men who do not realise this, the most important aspect of the rise in coal? As usual, what is needed is the experience and advice of the working woman!

FURNISHED BEDROOM TO LET, with or without Board. Suit single lady or gentleman. Gas Stove outside room door. Terms 5s. a week. Apply—Mrs. Walker, 158 East India Dock Road.

WANTED AT ONCE, by widow with children, Two Good Rooms or Small House in West Bow District. Moderate rent. Apply—"Dreadnought," Box 101.

The following letter appeared in the *Daily Chronicle*:—

Feb. 26 1915.

Sir,—Can you kindly find space to make public the following case?

A poor woman, well known to me, whom I will call Mrs. Brown, is the mother of eight children, the youngest being twin boys a year old, one of whom is ill in the infirmary, chiefly because the family income was too small to provide him with sufficient milk. Till six weeks ago her husband worked in a shop for 25s. a week. He is now a driver in the R.A., and will probably soon be risking his life in his country's service. Owing to a mistake in his pay two weeks ago he only received 25s., out of which he and his wife and family had to live and pay rent (8s. 6d.). One bitter cold night they had no fire, as coals were 2s. per cwt. Mrs. Brown had a dreadful cough, and I wrote to the local committee of the National Relief fund asking that she might have medical attention and also other badly needed help. An order for the doctor was given her, but so far her case has not been inquired into. I may mention that her husband has been provided with neither boots nor underclothing by the authorities since he enlisted.

Last week Mrs. Brown received a summons to attend the police court, her eldest hopeful, aged 13, having run away from home, to the great distress of his parents, and so having absented himself from school. For this Mrs. Brown is ordered to pay a fine of 2s. 6d. next Friday, or go to prison for three days. As she can neither take the baby with her nor leave him alone, she must perforce pay. Three of the children, besides the mother, need boots badly, and one will have to go without in order to pay this fine. Owing to the high price of bread Mrs. Brown has been standing frequently lately outside Lyons's bakery for many hours (sometimes eight) at a time in all weathers to get bread ¾d. a loaf cheaper, to the great detriment of her health.

There are three things one would like to know: (1) Why Mrs. Brown was summoned at all when the police and schoolmaster are aware it was not her fault that the boy ran away? (2) Why she was not allowed to state her case at the police court? (3) What her 2s. 6d., so hardly earned, and which can so ill be spared, will be used for; and if it will be used in paying the salary of the magistrate?

No wonder poor people say, "There is one law for the rich and another for the poor."

E. J. Robinson (Miss)
35a Elsham Road, Kensington.

VOTES FOR WOMEN IN AMERICA.

A Ship Purchase Bill, which entails the expenditure of millions of dollars collected from the people by taxation, has been introduced into the United States Congress. Senator Jones, of Washington, has presented the following amendment of the Bill:—

"Provided that no revenues derived through taxes or duties collected from unenfranchised women of the United States shall be available or used for any of the purposes of THIS ACT."

This is a claim which the voteless women of this country might fairly make in respect of all taxation, especially that part which is devoted to paying the salaries of Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament.

Where is the Member of Parliament who will move such an amendment for us?

"MILK FUND" SOCIAL

At the Women's Hall,
400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW, E.
(Take No. 8 Bus from Liverpool St.)

—on—

Saturday, March 11th,

At 8 p.m.

—:o:—

Tickets **3d.** from 400 Old Ford Road, Bow; 321 Roman Rd., Bow; and J. W. Bonarius, 89 Wyke Road, Bow.

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